RESOLUTION NO. _________

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OUR HOUSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION/OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FINANCIAL NAVIGATORS GRANT FUNDED THROUGH THE CITIES FOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FUNDS FOR ONE (1)-YEAR, AS ENDORSED BY THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, remains committed to assisting low-income, homeless, and near-homeless individuals and families in Little Rock, a population particularly hard-hit by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors had shown support for aiding community members experiencing a host of challenges and hardships; and,

WHEREAS, Our House, the City of Little Rock’s non-profit partner, has a thirty-three (33)-year track record of connecting vulnerable individuals and families to a suite of wrap-around services; and,

WHEREAS, in a survey of clients who had been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Our House found that 66% of the population it serves had lost employment, or had reductions in hours worked; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 68% of the respondents shared that they have experienced dramatic increases in stress levels due to financial insecurity, social isolation, housing instability, lack of childcare and joblessness; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Programs Department provides quality Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (PIT) Programming that utilizes citizen involvement, evidence-based practices, and standardized processes with the goal of increasing positive outcomes and the quality of life for all citizens; and,

WHEREAS, in a survey of clients impacted by the virus, approximately 55% indicated that they were experiencing a high level of need during this time; and,

WHEREAS, the Compass Platform, Financial Navigators training and technical assistance provided by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Funds would enable Our House and Community Programs Staff to create a remote “one-stop-shop” for residents of Little Rock; leveraging the networks, resources and institutional know-how of both municipal and community-based non-profit partners; and,

WHEREAS, upon the adoption of this resolution, the agreement will be finalized and
executed with Our House.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a one (1)-year contract with Our House commencing on August 1, 2021, for the expressed purpose of implementing the Financial Navigators Initiative, providing free remote-based financial triage and guide clients to a range of national and local programs, services and resources, in alignment with the model requirements as set by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund.

Section 2. Funds in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars ($80,000.00) are available through a grant awarded by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund.

Section 3. Our House will report to Community Programs Staff and will cooperate and confer with them as necessary to insure satisfactory work progress.

Section 4. The City Manager shall be satisfied with the program to create a remote “one-stop-shop” for residents of Little Rock, leveraging the networks, resources and institutional know-how of both municipal and community-based non-profit partners in advance of disbursement of the funds.

Section 5. All payments are conditioned upon entry into contracts for services that are in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

Section 6. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of this resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

Section 8. Repealer. All laws, ordinances and resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: February 16, 2021

ATTEST:          APPROVED:

____________________________________  ____________________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk         Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

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